



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS CHECK TO
PAWNEE COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

Pawnee City, Neb., March 26, 2002 – Jim Barr, USDA Rural Development State Director in Nebraska presented a check today to the Pawnee County Memorial Hospital in Pawnee City. USDA Rural Development Community Facility loan and grant funds of over \$1.1 million assisted in the construction of a medical clinic and hospital renovations.

"Quality medical care is a great concern for rural communities," stated Barr. "Medical clinics such as Pawnee County Memorial Hospital's bring improved health care services and opportunities for the recruitment of additional health care professionals to adequately address the medical needs of rural areas."

The new 9,800-sq. ft. ADA accessible medical clinic, now collocated in the hospital, saves time for both the patients and physicians. The increased number of exam rooms available, allow the medical needs of more patients to be addressed. Cardiac rehab has been impacted as the required presence of a doctor in the hospital is met. Administratively, dollars are saved through the elimination of rent payments and lower costs in record maintenance.

Hospital renovations included the development of a conference room, new business office, record storage area, new entrance and waiting area; expansion of the laboratory; installation of fire sprinkler system; relocation of emergency room and medical records area; electrical work and cosmetic improvements to the interior.

USDA Rural Development loan funds of \$1,082,000 and grant funds of \$100,000 along with \$311,000 from the Pawnee County Memorial Hospital were utilized for the near \$1.5 million project.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs and administers financial and technical assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service and Rural Utilities Service. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's website at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

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